



# Enewsletter for Parents

Autumn 2008 issue

## Greetings :

Reed College Alumni & Parent Relations is pleased to send you this electronic newsletter for parents of current Reed students. We aim to keep you informed of important dates, staff updates, and other news of the college twice a year. Please feel free to contact us with thoughts, questions, or concerns. If you do not wish to receive future issues, the option to unsubscribe is available at the bottom of this newsletter.



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## NEWS



### Message from the New Dean of Student Services, Jerlena Griffin-Desta

Greetings to the families of Reedies:

On behalf of all of us in Student Services, I am pleased to provide you selected information about what your Reedie may be experiencing this fall. I met many of you during campus orientation events for new students. During this time, I noted the importance of your continued involvement in the life of your son or daughter, but involvement that is well calibrated to suit the experiences, wants, and needs of your Reedie. This is critical not only for parents of freshmen, but for all students. To that end, we have provided a chart to help you target your support. Our hope is that you will feel knowledgeable and empowered (and appear all smart and cool to your Reedie), and thus effective in supporting your student as s/he continues to navigate this special place called

### In the World of Residence Life

Residence Life welcomed four new Resident Directors (RDs) to the team this year. Drew White, who is the RD for Foster, Scholz, and MacNaughton residence halls, came to Reed from Baylor University in Texas where he received his master's degree in Divinity. Drew loves the outdoors and is looking forward to exploring Portland. Dana Bays is originally from the Portland area; she received her Master's degree in higher education administration at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She is the RD for Naito and Sullivan residence halls and is looking forward to building community in her dorms. Rosanna Duran came to Reed from the University of South Florida where she received her master's degree in college student affairs. Rosanna is the RD for cross-canyon residence halls and is looking forward to getting to know Portland this year. Jonathan Gonzales is the RD for the Birchwood and Reed College Apartments as well as the language houses. Jonathan came to Reed from California Lutheran University where he earned his

Reed. Please click here to see the "[Parent's Guide To Supporting Your Reedie.](#)"

The Student Services staff stands ready to support you in supporting your student. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [jerlena@reed.edu](mailto:jerlena@reed.edu).

### Parent & Family Weekend Reminder

Please join us for Parent & Family Weekend on November 7 & 8 on campus. Check in and activities begin at 8:30 a.m. Friday in Gray Lounge and conclude Saturday afternoon. Parents, grandparents, and siblings are invited to attend. Whether you are coming to campus for the first time or the fifth, this is a wonderful opportunity for families to meet members of the college community and learn more about what students experience at Reed. The schedule is designed with something for everyone, from attending classes and touring the campus to performances from Chamber Music Northwest and conversations with the president, faculty, and staff. New to the schedule this year is a sibling program for ages 12-16: check the [website](#) for more information.

**Online registration** is currently available. Feel free to contact us with any questions at [parents@reed.edu](mailto:parents@reed.edu) or 503/777-7589. Please take advantage of this opportunity to spend time with your Reedie exploring campus and the Pacific Northwest.

### Note from the Parent Council Chair

Dear Parents of Reedies:

As chair of Reed's Parent Council, I'm pleased to welcome you to a new academic year at the college. The Parent Council is a small group of parents who advocate for and advise the college.

You know, of course, that Reed is extraordinary. You have probably heard that Reed ranks third in the percentage of undergraduate origins of Ph.D.s in the United States and second in Rhodes Scholars from a liberal arts college. You may not yet have heard that Reed produced three Fulbright scholars in 2007-08, joining the 68 Reedies who have earned the award since 1966.

Yet as terrific as it is, Reed faces a perplexing challenge: how can it preserve its unique identity while adapting almost daily to the changing needs of its students?

While committed to upholding its most distinctive features--including its classical

master's degree in counseling and guidance, specializing in college student personnel.

Residence Life also saw the opening of five new buildings. The Grove area, which consists of the Aspen, Sitka, Sequoia, and Bidwell houses, opened this August. These new "green" dorms are three-story buildings and house 25-35 students each, split between single and divided-double rooms. This new student housing is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. The "green" features include landscaping that filters storm water runoff into a natural spring; ventilation stacks built to resemble chimneys that will cool the buildings naturally; and an array of environmentally sensitive materials such as flooring, window glass, and roof tiles.

Another housing project that opened up to students this August is the new Spanish House. This new language house has 17 single rooms on three floors and is double the size of the other houses. The students living in Spanish house have a shared living room, dining room, and kitchen; all of the bedrooms and study areas are on the second and third floors. In addition, there is an office on the first floor that is for use by the language scholars and the RD. The Spanish House has built community this year by coming together for dinners where residents practice speaking Spanish. The house also hosted several movie nights in its living room that have been well attended by those interested in the language and culture.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us [res.life@reed.edu](mailto:res.life@reed.edu) or 503/777-7536.

### *Important Residence Life dates:*

Thursday, November 27-Sunday, November 30: Thanksgiving break (Residence halls open with limited food service)

Friday, December 19, 2008: Residence halls close at Noon

Friday, January 16, 2009: Residence halls open at Noon (limited food service)

Saturday, March 14-Sunday, March 22: Spring break (Residence halls open with limited food service)

Tuesday, May 19, 2009: Residence halls close for summer

### Fall notes from Career Services

Welcome, and welcome back, Reed parents:

Many of the choice internships for fall and

curriculum and its honor principle--Reed is ever adjusting to the needs of its current students. It is adding support services, such as counseling and the peer mentoring program described elsewhere in this enewsletter; and in response to increased student demand, Reed is increasing on-campus housing.

Instead of taking my word that Reed is striking the right mix between tradition and transition, why don't you join me instead at this year's **Parent & Family Weekend** and see for yourself?

For those of you planning to attend, please note the new options on the slate for this year's program. For those of you bringing your other children, the college now offers a sibling program (for ages 12-16) at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, November 7. Also of interest is a presentation led by the new Dean & Vice President of Student Services, Jerlena Griffin-Desta, which will take place on Saturday, November 8, at 10 a.m.

By the way, our **Parent Council** is seeking a few new members; if you have interest in learning more about us, please email Sirius Bonner '05 in College Relations at [bonners@reed.edu](mailto:bonners@reed.edu).

Enjoy your child's academic journey!

--John McNellis, father of Jamie '09, Parent Council Chair

### Important Financial Aid Information

Financial aid applications for the 2009-10 academic year will be available in early December. If your Reedie does not bring home an application packet over winter break, or if you want your own set of application instructions, give us a call at 503/777-7223 or send us an email at [financial.aid@reed.edu](mailto:financial.aid@reed.edu), and we will send one to you. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and CSS Profile should be filed with the processors by April 1, 2009. Please submit the verification worksheet and copies of parent and student 2008 IRS returns, 1099s, and W-2 statements to the Reed College Financial Aid Office by May 1, 2009. And don't hesitate to contact us at 503/777-7223 or [financial.aid@reed.edu](mailto:financial.aid@reed.edu) if you wish to check the status of your Reedie's financial aid application.

### What is the Gray Fund?

The Gray Fund is an endowment that was first established 17 years ago in an effort by a local community member, Betty Gray, to offer

summer have deadlines coming up very quickly. An internship is more than just a way for your Reedie to earn some cash--a meaningful work experience complements academic studies and enriches the life of the mind; prepares students for the opportunities and challenges of professional, civic, and private life; and deepens one's understanding of personal strengths and interests. One of the key messages that we deliver every day to students is this: early planning will deepen your experience, strengthen your resume, and help ease your way into your future so that you will face graduation and life after Reed feeling well-prepared for whatever you choose next.

If your Reedie is a new student, we want to support her/his entry into Reed life. Early activities with our office can include your student meeting with a counselor who will guide your student through the early steps useful for incorporating career development activities into her/his activities at Reed. Taking our online assessment tests can help her/him gain understanding about future options. Our programming holds myriad opportunities through the year for your student to build skills and to meet Reedies whose stories and connections may be useful to your student in the future.

If your Reedie is graduating, we want to support his/her transition to graduate school, entry-level work, or an interim of service and/or travel. Students who start planning early are in the best position to seize competitive opportunities.

If you know of any good opportunities for Reed students, please let Career Services know so we can get the word out. For more information on how you can join our efforts, contact Ron Albertson at [career.services@reed.edu](mailto:career.services@reed.edu) or 503/517-7421, or visit us **online**.

### Student Spotlight from Zach Levin '12

This year's Orientation t-shirts read "Reed College: it's not a sprint, it's a marathon." My initial reaction to this motto was to chuckle: partly at the thought of a bunch of Reedies in a marathon, partly in a self-deprecating manner as I realized that Reed really is more of a multi-legged race than a quick fun run. As I reflect on this moment, my web browser finds its way to Wikipedia, where I am reminded that our usage of the word "marathon" derives from the Greco-Persian Battle of Marathon. I already knew that, though--I took Hum 110.

Reedies a chance to get out of the classroom and enjoy themselves. This year, the Gray Fund has provided students, faculty, and staff with the opportunity to eat dinner with the president (see photo of this dinner below), attend the monthly Alberta Street "Last Thursday" art walk, and view *Troy* and *Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure*. Also this semester, the Gray Fund will present Pulitzer Prize winning graphic novelist, Art Spiegelman, and to see political satirists, the Capitol Steps, perform. All **Gray Fund events** are free and open to the Reed community.



### Peer Mentor Program Explained

The peer mentor program (PMP) continues to provide an opportunity for incoming freshmen with a strong interest in issues of diversity and social justice to connect with one another by being matched with upperclassmen. This program was founded in 2001 by Patty Hsue '02, whose personal experience of feeling like an outsider on the campus led her to work with administration to provide a stronger support network for incoming students of color. The program has grown significantly, and this year we have 60 students involved with PMP, representing a wide range of backgrounds and geographic areas.

Last year the program started to reach out explicitly to a broader constituency of incoming students in an effort to insure that a model for alliance building across race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and religion was demonstrated to the campus. The increased interest and involvement of the program continues to challenge the PMP to collaborate with areas such as Career Services, Academic Support Resources, Student Activities, and Faculty to create programs that illustrate how students can balance the academic mission of the institution with their own personal interests in social justice and diversity. This year we will continue to hold our winter retreat at McMenemy's Edgefield during the first weekend of Paideia, as well as have a pilot women-of-color retreat that potentially will serve as a model for providing targeted opportunities for other groups of students to have in-depth conversations about how they experience Reed in relation to their various identities.

The planning committee of the PMP is excited

"wait a minute," my mind stops with a smile or self-approval, "I knew that." There is something amazing and beautiful in making connections to Hum 110. Hum 110 is just one of the many things that make Reed such a unique experience.

I suppose before I elaborate further I should do a proper introduction. My name is Zach Levin, and I am a sophomore very-much-undecided major. I'm from Oak Park, California, which is a suburb amidst the sprawl of Los Angeles.

Being a freshman seems long ago, but I remember how excited I was to be at Reed and how terrified I was of messing up. Reed is an amazing place, full of amazing people, and yet I distinctly remember being terrified as I auditioned for the fall faculty theatre show. I didn't even know if freshman were allowed to try out, let alone get cast. Little did I know that a little over a month and a half later, I'd be playing Polonius in the mainstage production of *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*.

I've discovered there are [nearly] limitless opportunities at Reed; you just have to try. In my spring semester of freshman year I was hired to work at the helpdesk in the Educational Technology Center. Not only is it a fantastic job, but it also lets me give back a little to the community in technical support. This year I am the house advisor for Foster 1 (the best dorm on campus, no matter what anyone tells you), and it has given me a whole new perspective on being a Reedie.

I could spend time talking about why I love the Honor Principle, the close student-faculty relations, etc., but the View Book does that more eloquently and has pretty pictures too. As a side note, the pictures don't lie: I often stop and think about what a beautiful campus we have before I get on my way.

Of course, my description of Reed highlights the positive, and I'd hate to think anyone reading this would accuse me of sugarcoating. Reed isn't perfect, but perfect is unrealistic, as any paper conference will reinforce. However, I have the privilege of saying I am truly happy at college.

So, for the purpose of bringing this distraction-from-real-work to the perfect cliché full-circle ending, a friend has recently promised me to get me into running. So maybe, just maybe, I'll try a marathon someday soon.



about the chance to work with students this upcoming year and welcomes any student to our campuswide programs.

### Save the Date for Commencement

Reed's 95th annual commencement ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 18, 2009, on the front lawn of campus. Weekend events include optional tours on Saturday and Sunday, and a commencement-eve celebration Sunday evening. A complete schedule will be available in February. Please join us in celebrating the class of 2009!




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#### EXTRA LINKS

Contact information for **Reed staff**

The **Reed academic calendar**

Schedule of **parent events** on campus

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#### KEEP IN TOUCH

Twice a year you will be receiving an newsletter distributed to the parents and grandparents of current students. Thank you for allowing us to reach you via email, our most immediate means to share news and information. Your email address will be used only for communications to you from Reed. To continue to receive parent communication, keep us up to date on your current contact information or let us know of any additional person who should receive parent mailings. Send name, mailing address, telephone, and email to us at the addresses below.

Thank you for allowing us to reach you via email, our most immediate means to share news and information. Your email address will be used only for communications to you from Reed.

If we do not have your current/correct mailing address, please send us an update at **parents@reed.edu**.

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